

May 30, 2007

**REFUGEE WORKING GROUP  
Salt Lake County Council Chambers  
2001 S State, North Building, Room 1100  
Salt Lake City, UT**

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Palmer DePaulis welcomed the attendees and explained the format to be followed at this evening's meeting.

**Review of Draft Document of Recommendations:**

Garth Mangum recommended adding language to the recommendations regarding Section 8 Housing Vouchers for Refugees. A recommendation was made to include involvement of government in increasing and maintaining the supply of affordable housing in the Salt Lake City area. An additional suggestion is to add a line item recommending each housing authority have a refugee outreach worker. A Housing Self Sufficiency Program (similar to one supported by HUD) was another recommendation to be added to the finalized list. Increased funding for ESL providers to be set aside to support innovative projects for refugees was another recommendation. Discussion ensued regarding the intent of this recommendation.

Norman Nakamura will check into the amount of state funding set aside for ESL to ensure the suggested 10% increase is correctly differentiated.

Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of advocating to the federal government for an increase in federal spending on the refugee program.

**Review of the Draft Cover/Transmittal Letter:**

Discussion regarding the make-up of the transmittal letter and the information to be sent to the Governor and the Mayor ensued. A discussion regarding the need for a mechanism that allows for input and identifies refugee needs and that will bring community partners together to solve those needs took place.

Instead of having Palmer DePaulis and the state staff compile the final list of recommendations to be presented to the Governor and Mayor, a smaller group of representatives will work with Mr. DePaulis to ensure the final product represents the views of the refugees. This process will take place over the next month and the final product will then be brought back to the larger group in order to ensure it represents the expectations of the whole group. In the meantime, Mr. DePaulis will send a progress report of where we are now, what we've done, and that the

process is continuing with a small representative group to make the recommendations.

A new draft of the transmittal letter will be posted on the intranet. This draft will reflect the need for increased funding, better refugee coordination structure, and the concerns regarding the affordable housing issue. Tani Pack Downing stated that if the recommendations to the Mayor and the Governor are not compiled and submitted before the end of July, some agencies will already have prepared their budget and it may be too late to include the recommendations in their budgets for the coming year. If the smaller group can finalize their recommendations in the next month there will be time to take the recommendations to the interim committees. Tani also suggested that there may be some recommendations that state agencies and service providers can do not that don't need to be prioritized.

Palmer DePaulis agreed the process should be compressed for completion as quickly as possible and that some recommendations are more service provider driven and should not be sent to the Governor and Mayor for action.

Discussion of how the smaller representative group to work on the final recommendation list for the Governor and Mayor ensued. Mr. DePaulis will schedule a date and time for a meeting of the smaller working group to begin work on the final recommendation list. It was suggested that any organization that is willing to work on any of the recommendations let Mr. DePaulis know they will take on a project. An agency level resource map would be helpful in the final process to decide which agencies have the structure in place to handle parts or all of a recommendation. Another suggestion was made to determine what percentage of the refugee population would be helped by the solution and what the financial impact of the solution would be.

- New draft letter to be put on the website for comment.
- Palmer will select a smaller group to meet in a compressed timeframe to get focus on a roadmap for the Governor and the Mayor.
- Interim report on progress

Palmer thanked all the attendees for their contributions to the process so far and their willingness to continue to support the working group.